Appendix C Eastern Box Turtle Field Study



NEW ENGLAND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



BLACKLEDGE RIVER NURSERY

January 26, 2005

Mr. Thomas H. Fenton, P.E. Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates, Inc. P.O. Box 337 Chester, CT 06412

> e: Eastern Box Turtle Habitat Survey Hebron Village Green Hebron, Connecticut

Dear Mr Fenton:

As requested, I have conducted an Eastern Box Turtle (Terrapene C. Carolina) habitat survey on the Hebron Village Green Property, which is located in Hebron, Connecticut. This site encompasses approximately 148 acres and occurs along Route 85, Kinney Road and Route 66.

Because of seasonal weather conditions at the time the study was authorized, an Eastern Box Turtle Survey to specifically identify if these species are located on the site could not be completed. Therefore, for the purposes of this report, I have identified areas that meet the habitat requirements of the eastern box turtle.

The habitat survey was conducted December 28, 2004. Based on my field survey, the habitats on the parcel were mapped. A colored map entitled "Eastern Box Turtle Habitat Areas, Hebron Village Green" was drawn on a base map showing existing vegetation associations and is included with this report to depict the eastern box turtle habitat areas

The colored map identifies four categories as it relates to eastern box turtle habitat. The cultivated corn fields and mowed grass fields do not provide Eastern Box Turtle habitat. These areas are depicted in yellow and green on the habitat areas map.

The areas depicted in red are preferred box turtle habitat areas. Typically, preferred box turtle habitat areas include meadows and old fields which are associated and in close proximity to streams/groundwater seeps and upland forest. Two large areas of preferred Eastern Box Turtle habitat occur on the parcel. The western section of the parcel contains of variety of habitats which together provide good Eastern Box Turtle habitat. The area (1) includes old field meadow, old field shrub, scrub-shrub wetland, wet meadow, emergent marsh with area of open water, intermittent stream, Red Maple swamp and some upland forest. The second large area (2) of preferred Eastern Box Turtle habitat occurs in the southeastern section of the parcel. The association of the various habitat areas provide good Eastern Box Turtle habitat. The area includes old field meadow, wet meadow, intermittent stream, wooded wetland and upland forest. A third preferred Eastern Box Turtle area (3) occurs in the east central portion of the parcel. The area is an old field, which as been abandoned for many years. Shrub size woody plants are abundant in this area with some open areas.

The areas depicted in brown on the attached map are considered marginal Eastern Box Turtle habitat. Essentially any wooded area which is several acres in size has the potential of supporting the eastern box

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Mr. Thomas H. Fenton, P.E.

Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates, Inc.
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turtle On this particular site, these marginal areas include upland forest, wooded wetlands and Red Maple swamp

An Eastern Box Turtle survey can not be conducted until May 2005 when the animals are activity foraging. The areas classified as preferred and marginal Eastern Box Turtle habitat areas should be included in this survey. If the Eastern Box Turtle is found on the site, I could assist in developing a conservation plan for the protection of the Eastern Box Turtle.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me

Very truly yours,

New England Environmental Services

R Richard Snarski

Certified Professional Soil Scientist #1975

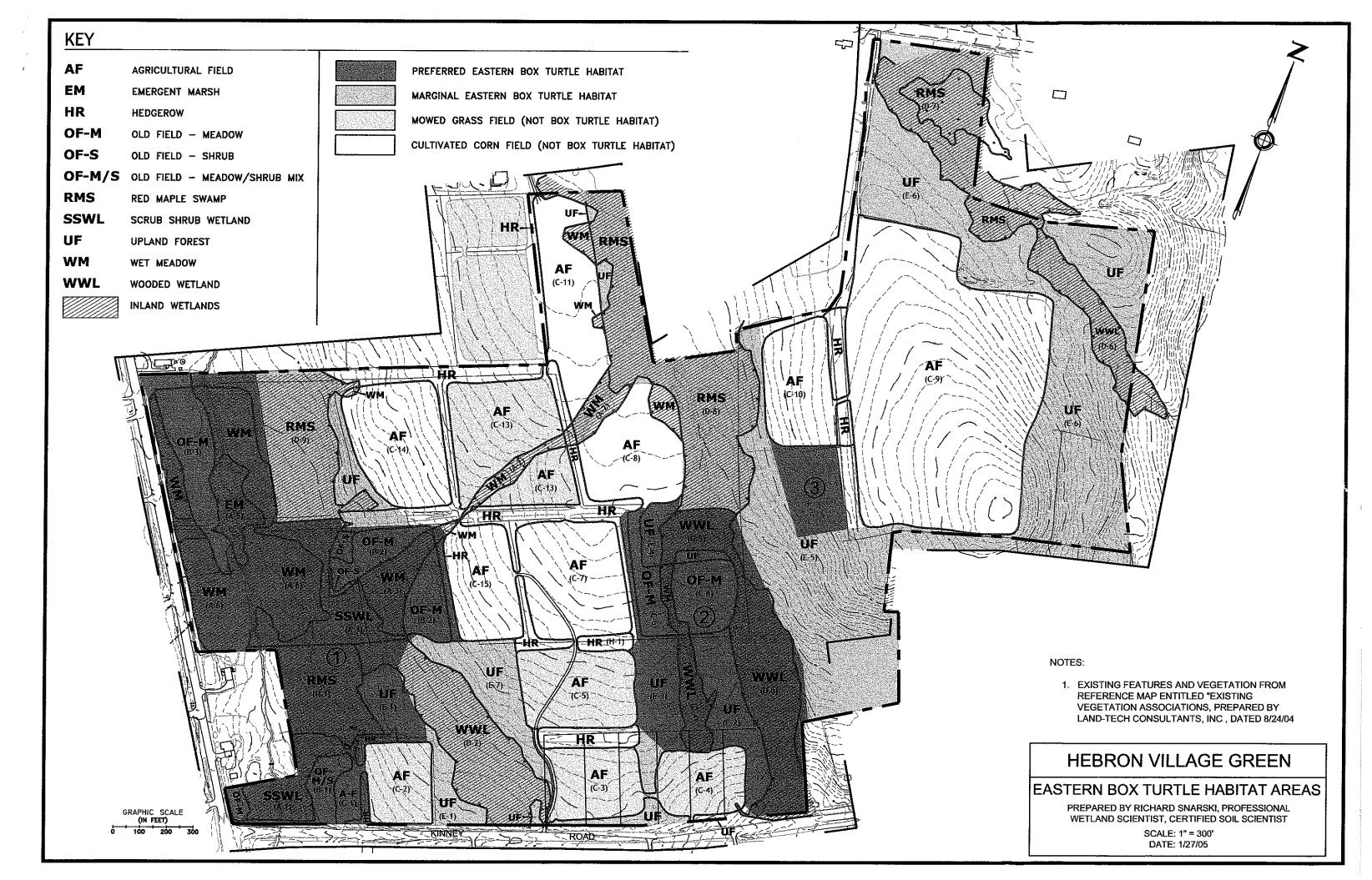
Professional Wetlands Scientist

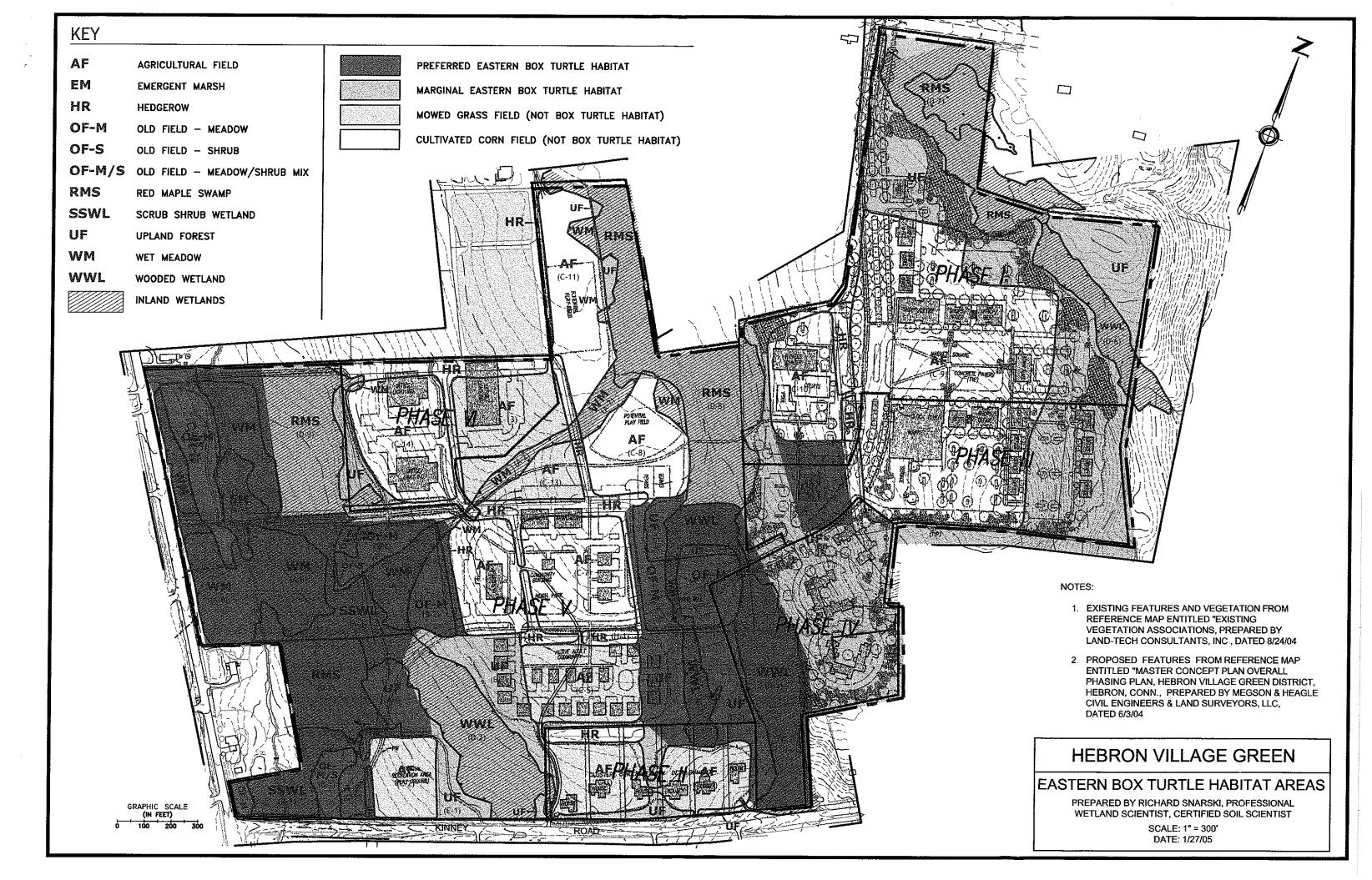
Certified Sediment & Erosion Control Specialist #200

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Professional Profile

R. Richard Snarski, CPSS, CPESC

Office Address:

New England Environmental Services 155 Jerry Daniels Road Marlborough, Connecticut 06447 Telephone: 860-295-1022

Education:

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana; M.S. in Soil Science, May 1980 Thesis project on surface mine reclamation

University of Connecticut, Storrs; B.S. in Soil Science, May 1978 Emphasis of study in soil classification and genesis

Professional Registrations:

Certified Professional Soil Scientist (CPSS #1975)

Professional Wetland Scientist

Certified Professional Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist (CPESC #200)

The Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England

Amphibian and Reptile Related Experience

New England Environmental Services Blackledge River Nursery

- Identified and confirmed two-hundred and eleven vernal pools in the State of Connecticut from 1996 2003
- 2 Taught the field session for the Vernal Pool 3 Symposium in Ledyard, Connecticut; sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection; spring 1998.
- Assisted the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection in locating vernal pools for the May 1997 Municipal Inland Wetland Commissioner's Training Program
- 4 Constructed seven successful vernal pools in the Towns of Marlborough, Sterling, Waterford, Hebron, Cromwell and Salem
- 5 Inventoried and monitored the hydrology of eleven vernal pools on a five-hundred and fifty acre parcel; East Haddam, Connecticut
- 6. Inventoried and monitored the hydrology on thirty-four vernal pools on eighteen-hundred acres owned by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe.
- Provided technical assistance to the Towns of Old Saybrook and North Stonington on the impacts of golf course construction on vernal pools
- Provided technical assistance related to vernal pool protection in the development of golf courses; Foxhopyard Golf Course, East Haddam and Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, North Stonington.
- Monitored the amphibians in the vernal pools during the excavation of a gravel bank to determine any impacts the gravel operation has on the amphibian population; Montville, Connecticut; four year study
- Monitored the amphibians in thirteen vernal pools before and after the construction of a golf course to determine impacts the construction of the golf course has on the amphibian population; East Haddam, Connecticut; five year study
- Eastern Box Turtle, Wood Turtle and Spotted Turtle survey on lands of Mashantucket Pequot Tribe; Mashantucket, Connecticut
- Eastern Box Turtle Survey and Management Plan for Bartlett Hill Subdivision; Portland, Connecticut
- Eastern Box Turtle Habitat Enhancement Plan; Marlborough, Connecticut.